Mrs Chapman. Boston June 27th 1840

Jany.

My dear Miss Estlin,

Will you receive my warmest acknowledgments both those of all american friends of the Slave for all that you have done for our cause? Not the least is the kind compliance with our request to send your beautiful contributions exhibit those your friend comment. I have seen your judgment would have agreed with ours in the request, had the various circumstances that induced it been known to

16

and the standard of taste differ in each class. It would be interesting to you, I think, to see the lobbying union of great dispositions, for the promotion of this cause. 11

Shall I not be permitted to say to you that the most careless & thoughtless minds that have named the name of the cause, instantly felt the strong motive to watchfulness & self-control, that no truth shall not suffer from their weakness & misapprehension, while at

and assisting. I cannot but entreat you to convey to your relative, Mr Reynolds, who took the pains to get our Mass. report appointed, my (& all our) grateful acknowledgements for that service to the cause. You shall soon receive the report of 1846, by the same hand (Edmund Quincy.) I think that if all our purposes, difficulties, projects, circumstances were known, the knowledge would, in combination, justify the things in our

career that a cursory glance would condemn.

I send some Liberty Bells for Bristol, not because they are most useful there, but simply in grateful token of our feelings. Our reason for publishing them is, that the opposition to the abolition of slavery is so great here, that we could not get a publication like the "ten years of experience" which you mention, or "Slavery as it is," into the hands of a large class of those most influential. They must be treated like children, to whom

Jan 1846

a Medicine is made as pleasant as it's nature admits. A childish mind receives a small measure of truth in gilt edges, when it would reject it in "whity-brown." I am sure, if you were here, you would not think we were disputing about nothing. Many a man whose name you see in the papers, talking plausibly, & seeming to be the best of abolitionists, is not so, but lastly opposed to the cause in reality, afraid to lose credit with any one

by taking a decided practical stand for the right in a community deeply interested in the continuance of wrong. You would probably be amazed at our toleration if you were here. If a man is but honest & a friend of the cause, it is no difference of opinion that can divide him from the rest of the honest & friendly.— Differences of opinion that I daily behold in England you would call too wide to unite, here are made of no account by the right

of our principles of freedom & immediatism. When you see a quarrel, it is not about words, but about base personal betrayal & treachery to the cause, & abandonment of its principles – all trying to conceal themselves under the cloak of love of the cause. Think how hard it must be to stand upright in such a current of iniquity as this, & not swim with it – Those who yield, must excuse themselves by finding fault with those who do not.

I never make myself

responsible for any man's
language, nor do I with
any man to be respon-
sible for mine. I leave
the choice of his words to
him, simply giving my
advice, & I am most
grateful to him for his
advice. I will think as
I have indeed thought already
on the question of phrase-
ology. I wish I might
have the privilege of hear-
ing from you again
here it only to know exactly
what friends in England
would object to in the

Mrs Chapman.

Boston June 27th 1840

Jany.

My dear Ship Esther,

Will you receive my warmest acknowledgments & those of all american friends of the Slave for all that you have done for our cause? Not the least is the kind compliance with our request to send your beautiful contributions which have gone forward.

I am sure your judgment would have agreed with ours in the request, had the various circumstances that induced it been known to

you.

Every thing came safely but the wax flowers. They were wholly destroyed. I lamented for the sake of the thoughtful hand that made them but the pecuniary loss was not so great as if they had been a new thing here. The stationery was very productive, and, indeed all the contributions were most saleable, & were admired as they deserved to be. The notes of the donors attached to each article were most welcome, & often touching

the same time I thank you for reminding us of the sacredness of the task we have undertaken. We deeply feel that the reformer ought to be perfect. but when would reform begin if it were to wait till there were perfect reformers? Is it not the fact that they can only be perfected through some such struggle as this which shows them imperfections in strong relief? After all I am still disposed to say as I did when I stood 12 years ago on the threshold of the cause — "There is great work to be done

with these people; but
yet they are the only ones
in the nation with vir-
tue enough to have taken
them part with the suffering
& the wronged to their
own hurt & loss (temporally
speaking)."

I hope to hear from
you soon, & intending
to write by next steamer
when more time will
allow me to speak more
particularly of many of
your deserving Boston con-
tributions, so as to throw light
upon the state of our market

I am
most gratefully & sincerely
your friend, J. W. Chapman